

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM

FISCAL YEAR 2011

Instructions

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to: Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.

Project Details

1. **Project title:** Initiative for Oregon's At-Risk Youth
2. **Organization name and address** (the recipient of the funds):
Oregon Mentors
1221 SW Yamhill, Suite 260
Portland, OR 97205
3. **Contact information**
 - a. **Project's primary contact:** Carolyn Becic
 - b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** (503) 517-8990
 - c. **Email Address:** Carolyn@oregonmentors.org
 - d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address):

4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.

Founded in 2001, Oregon Mentors is the state's mentoring partnership that was established to support the next generation of Americans through powerful mentoring relationships. Our mission is to create positive life opportunities for all young Oregonians by connecting them to caring mentors. We define youth as ages six to 25. In our nine year history, we have touched the lives of more than 120,000 children and demonstrated a strong track record of success. Oregon Mentors' 32 board members are leaders in business, government, education, and philanthropy. Our three core services include: volunteer recruitment and referral; professional development for mentoring program staff members; and resource identification and dissemination. Resources include free and timely background checks, access to MentorPRO, a data management system developed for mentoring programs, research on mentoring, scholarships to trainings, access to volunteer recruiting fairs and more.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

Private non-profit

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

Department of Justice, Byrne Grant or Juvenile Justice Accounts

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).

Oregon Mentors respectfully requests \$400,000 to recruit volunteer mentors, improve the quality of mentoring programs, and increase mentoring programs' capacity to serve greater numbers of youth, especially young men.

(1) \$150,000 to recruit, train, and retain caring mentors. Oregon Mentors maintains an exciting partnership with the Portland Trail Blazers that began in 2007. The goal of partnership is to recruit more mentors as well as thank existing mentors for their commitment. Oregon Mentors will expand this project with greater outreach through media and special events. Messaging will target volunteers to mentor young males. Oregon Mentors will partner with faith based organizations, civic organizations, and chambers of commerce to recruit mentors for young people in the communities where they live. Marketing efforts will reach more than 350,000 Oregonians and targeted solicitation to mentors will reach 10,000 people.

(2) \$150,000 for technical assistance and training to mentoring programs on how to improve program quality and implement the Elements of Effective Practice for MentoringTM (Elements). The Elements are nationally-recognized best practices based upon real world experience and research. Activities include workshops, Webinars, program visits with customized program improvement plans, technical assistance, curriculum for effectively mentoring young men, and a bi-annual conference. Activities are estimated to reach 72 mentoring professionals who interact with 7,000 current mentors and 2,000 potential mentors.

(3) \$100,000 for building program capacity to serve more young people, especially young men. Oregon Mentors will build a private/public partnership that will work with foundations and corporations to match these dollars. Matching funds from the private sector will be requested for five years to help programs sustain their expansion. We will work with strong, quality mentoring programs to increase their capacity to serve more young men and to sustain this growth. The goal will be to place mentors with 1,000 more young people. This will impact the youths' whole families or approximately 5,000 residents of District 3. Potential programs in the 3rd Congressional District are not limited to, but include:

- African Immigrant Mentoring Program
- ASPIRE at seven high schools
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest
- Chemo Pal Mentor Program
- County Youth Gang Task Force
- IRCO's David Douglas Mentoring Project
- Friends of the Children
- Girls Inc.
- I Have a Dream Foundation
- Minds Matter of Portland, Inc.
- Native American Youth and Family Center

- Open Meadow Alternative Schools
- Rosemary Anderson High School and Portland OIC
- Powerhouse Mentoring Program
- Self Enhancement, Inc.
- SMART

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

Throughout Oregon, 35,000 young people are currently in formal mentoring relationships that are managed by 90 registered mentoring programs. Oregon Mentors estimates that an additional 165,000 young Oregonians are in need of mentors. In the 1st Congressional District an estimated 37,000 young people are without adequate adult relationships. These young people are at risk of negative behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse, truancy, dropping out of school, becoming teen parents or incarceration. Longitudinal research has shown that quality mentoring works. A research brief published by Child Trends titled, “Mentoring: A Promising Strategy for Youth Development,” found that youth who participate in mentoring relationships experience a number of positive benefits. In terms of educational achievement, mentored youth have better attendance; a better chance of going on to higher education; and better attitudes towards school. Taking part in mentoring promotes positive social attitudes and relationships. All of these outcomes increase the resiliency of youth to reject life altering negative behaviors.

Oregon’s young males comprise the greatest number of youths on mentoring programs’ waiting lists. For example, Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest has a two year waiting list for boys. In Oregon, more than two-thirds of youth seeking mentors are male; however, three-fourths of current volunteers are female. Oregon Mentors seeks to serve both genders, but based upon need, will focus additional effort on recruiting male mentors to serve more young men.

Mentoring Programs deliver strong return on investment (ROI). Investing in youth today saves states millions of dollars that would otherwise be expenses during that child’s adulthood. Investing in prevention also means that young people reach their full potential. The 2004 Quality Education Commission report says a high school dropout costs the state of Oregon, on average, \$8,460 a year. This figure is the difference between taxes and fees paid to the state versus state services used. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy issued a report in 2004 stating that for every \$1 spent on the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program, the ROI was \$3.28. Moodie and Fisher, researchers at the University of Melbourne, reported in BioMed Central that mentoring programs would need to avert the high-risk behavior of only 1.3% of the youth participants to break even with the expense of treating a youth in jail or drug abuse rehabilitation. Several ROI studies have had consistent findings--that, on average, every \$1 spent on mentoring returns at least \$3 in benefits to society. In addition, building the capacity of mentoring programs creates jobs in two ways: (1) funding provides a public match to private dollars that will help mentoring programs hire needed staff members to supervise mentor-youth relationships; and (2) mentored youth are more likely to get the training needed to be employable. Businesses in Oregon often hire skilled employees from out of state.

The quality of the relationship between the mentor and mentee, as well as the duration of that relationship, have a profound impact on how much the youth improves on measurable outcomes and how long those improvements persist. By following the Elements, programs ensure they are properly screening, training, monitoring and supporting their mentors and mentees. Preparing and supporting mentors results in closer relationships with youth that often last more than one year. Monitoring and

supporting greater numbers of mentor/mentee matches takes additional staff members—an expense that many programs can't incur due to a downturn in philanthropic giving. The need is threefold: (1) more volunteer mentors, especially males; (2) training for programs to implement the Elements; and (3) funds to increase program staff to support more mentor-mentee matches.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

No, this is the first time Oregon Mentors is seeking federal appropriations funding.

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$400,000 (updated to \$600,000 via email from Carolyn Becic - RK)

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

Recruitment, training, retention of mentors	\$150,000
Technical assistance and training to mentoring programs	\$150,000
Building program capacity to serve more at-risk youth	<u>\$100,000</u>
TOTAL	\$400,000

12. What is the total cost of the project?

The total cost of the project is \$500,000.

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011)?

Yes

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

Thrasher Family \$15,000; Liberty Northwest \$25,000; Wells Fargo \$10,000; Portland General Electric \$10,000; Spirit Mountain Community Fund \$10,000; Morgan Family \$15,000; Regence BlueCross BlueShield \$10,000; Hoffman Construction \$5,000

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

Theodore Kulongoski, Governor of Oregon; John Kroger, Oregon District Attorney; Greg Chaille, CEO, Oregon Community Foundation; Sam Adams, Mayor, City of Portland; Ted Wheeler, Chair, Multnomah County, Rosie Sizer, Portland Chief of Police; Sandra McDonough, CEO, Portland Business Alliance; Duncan Wyse, President, Oregon Business Council; Marc Levy, CEO, United Way of Columbia Willamette; Sky's the Limit Mentoring Program; Julie Burnett, CEO, Liberty Northwest.

Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:

Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov

Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov